

I CLAIM:

1. A roofing tile comprising:  
a generally rectangular element(10) having  
lateral edges(11,12) and top and bottom  
portions(13,14),  
wherein one side of said tile has a plurality  
of ribs(16) formed thereon,  
wherein said ribs increase in depth from the  
top portion of the tile to the bottom portion  
of said tile,  
wherein said ribs are formed in a generally  
crossing pattern and form means whereby  
compartments(21-32) are present and comprise  
increasing volumes from top to bottom,  
the tile providing means whereby fire or  
flame spread is significantly reduced.
2. The roofing tile of claim 1 wherein said ribs  
are shaped to form diamond or partial diamond  
patterns to reduce flame spread.

3. The roofing tile of claim 2 wherein smaller triangular areas(60) are formed at lateral edges of the tile, said triangular areas(60) having upper portion means(60a) for directing a flame-melted material to a center portion of said tile.
4. A method of delaying the spread of flame-melted or hazardous materials comprising the steps of:
  - 1) providing a base element(70) having upper and lower portions(71,72),
  - 2) providing rib elements(81-84) extending from said base element(70),
  - 3) collecting hazardous material in chambers (A,B,C) of progressively increasing volume moving down the base element(70).